

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

July 21, 1995

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

CHAPURUKHA KUSIMBA RETURNS FROM FIELD WORK IN AFRICA

Chapurukha Kusimba (Anthropology) recently returned from a month of field work in East Africa. He conducted ethnographic research among the Swahili people of the East African Coast and continued his ongoing archaeological studies at Mtwapa, Kenya. Kusimba's research focuses on ancient trade, metallurgy, and the development of Swahili culture. He was able to acquire traditional pottery and blacksmithing outfits for the Museum's African collection. While in Africa, Kusimba also attended the 10th International Congress of the Pan African Association for Prehistory and Related Studies. He also lectured on the Field Museum's Africa exhibit to three different museum groups in Kenya.

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH PROGRAM NEWS

The Department of Anthropology has been awarded funding from the National Science Foundation for its proposal, "The Archaeology of Exchange Networks: Studying the prehistory of sociocultural

integration in the Aitape District of Papua New Guinea," submitted by **John Edward Terrell** (Anthropology) and **Robert L. Welsch** (Anthropology). This grant will provide \$79,000 to support archaeological fieldwork on the north coast of Papua New Guinea, the same area where Terrell and Welsch conducted research in 1993-94.

Jim Specht, Curator of Anthropology at The Australian Museum, Sydney, visited The Field Museum and the New Guinea Research Program on June 8-9. Jim is one of Australia's leading archaeologists and an expert on the prehistory of the Bismarck Archipelago. His research on New Britain in collaboration with **Robin Torrence** (Research Associate, Anthropology) complements our own work on the Sepik coast of New Guinea.

As part of his work with the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, **Robert L. Welsch** (Anthropology) has recently visited five major museum collections to examine objects from the Gulf of Papua in New Guinea. These collections include those at the United States National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the St. Louis Art Museum.

He is using these collections, together with those at The Field Museum, to better understand and catalog the Hood Museum's collections from the Papuan Gulf. It is hoped that this research will lead to an exhibition.

*COLLABORATIVE KINSHIP &
ADOPTION PROJECT (CKAP) NEWS*

Kelly Nelson, a graduate student in Anthropology at Brandeis University, is in Chicago for 3 months this summer as a CCUC research intern. She is exploring avenues for research on families and adoption here in greater Chicagoland. She is working under the supervision of **John Edward Terrell**, **Alaka Wali** (CCUC/Anthropology) and **Laura Litten** (Research Associate, Anthropology) and Professor at Columbia College.

A FOND FAREWELL

The Education Department would like to bid a fond farewell to **Julie Collins**, Program Manager for Adult and Group Programs in the Division of Adult, Family and Children's Programs as she moves to a new position as Curator of Education at the Mary and Leigh Block Gallery at Northwestern University. Julie's last day is today, July 21. We wish her good luck and thank her for her contributions to numerous Museum programs over the past five years.

Congratulations!

At the recent AAM meeting in Philadelphia, **Carrie Hageman** was elected Secretary of the Professional Interest Committee on Traveling Exhibitions.

HARRIS LOAN CENTER RE-OPENS WITH NEW SUMMER HOURS

The Harris Educational Loan Center will opened to the public on Tuesday, July 18, 1995, after a busy month of inventory and clean-up. Please note our new summer hours which are in effect from now until September 5, 1995.

Pick-up and Drop-off Times

Tuesday - Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Preview Materials and Same Day Service Hours

Tuesday - Friday	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thanks for your help in spreading the word about the resources available through Harris. And remember, Harris sells print materials that help educators use the Museum, including exhibit guides, activity books and posters.

KAFFEEKLATSCH MINUTES MEETING OF JULY 12, 1995

Open House Program

The vision of the Open House Program was one effort to promote internal mutual respect and understanding for the diversity of positions, responsibilities, efforts and people within the Museum. For the last sixteen months, **Anita Purnell**, together with the Kaffeeklatsch sub-committee, has coordinated the very successful Open House Program. Sub-committee members: **Paul Baker, Helen Cooper, Martina Hough, and Quixin Wu.**

We thank **Anita** and the sub-committee members for their tremendous efforts in taking the lead to launch this program and to coordinate a number of informative and fun departmental open houses. We thank the departments that have participated for opening their doors and letting us "peek" at what they do each day.

Anita Purnell has turned the reins over to **Lisa Wodis**, Budget Department, who will now chair the sub-committee and coordinate the Open House program. There are many departments that have yet to participate in an open house. When Lisa contacts you, just do it!

Ethics

The American Association of Museums has adopted an ethics code and is strongly

encouraging each institution to adopt their own ethics code.

In June, **Richard Koontz** and **Bonnie Greenball**, summer intern, began working on a Field Museum ethics statement. The plan is to have a final version by the end of August to bring to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. The ethics statement will be presented at Kaffeeklatsch, Science Advisory Council, Collections Advisory Council, Public Learning Council, Vice President's Docket, and at an open Museum-wide staff/volunteer meeting on July 19. The ethics statement was again discussed during the July Kaffeeklatsch meeting.

Parking

With the construction of Lake Shore Drive and the loss of the north parking lot at the end of this year, a committee member asked about what will happen with parking. **Sandy Boyd, Jim Croft, and Richard Koontz** are in regular, on-going contact with the other "campus" Museums, the architectural and engineering firms, and the Chicago Park District to stay updated on this project and to express and work on the Museum's issues and concerns. When we know something definite, we will communicate with staff and volunteers.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2.

Submitted By,
Marilyn Martinson, Kaffeeklatsch Chair

Congratulations! Employee Anniversaries, July 1995

Ramon Alba
Gregory Buckley
Chirkina Chirkina
Matthew Nitecki
Erin O'Donnell

Housekeeping
Geology
Security Services
Geology
Public Relations

10 years
5 years
15 years
30 years
5 years

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM ILLNESS TRANSMITTED BY BLOOD --



BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

It is important for every staff member to be aware of the dangers associated with contact with human blood and other body fluids. Human blood may contain various viruses, most commonly HIV and Hepatitis B virus. Because of these diseases, the Field Museum has established a policy on blood borne pathogens. If a fellow worker is injured and bleeding, please remember the following;

1. The **Security staff** is trained in first aid and have the personal protective equipment such as gloves and face shields to perform first aid while minimizing the risk of exposure to human blood.
2. The **Housekeeping staff** is equipped with special clean-up and disinfectant equipment to neutralize the viruses in human blood. In the event there is an incident involving human blood, please contact the Security and Housekeeping departments and tell them there is blood.
3. While Security is here to perform first aid, and while it is not the requirement of anyone else to perform first aid, an individual staff member may feel, because of the severity of an injury to a co-worker for instance, that he or she wants to perform a voluntary, "**Good Samaritan**" act of first aid. If you do make such a personal decision, remember the following:
 - The best policy is to treat ALL blood as if it were infected with these viruses.
 - Viruses from human blood may enter your system through mucus membranes - eyes, nose, mouth -- or through cuts and rashes on your skin. Exposure of blood on intact skin will not result in infection.
 - If there are latex or other impermeable gloves nearby put them on before administering first aid.
 - If you have goggles, glasses, sunglasses or other eye protection available, put them on before administering first aid. Wear a face mask or pull your shirt up over your mouth and nose to act as a barrier to splashing blood.
4. Remember that *any items that have been exposed to blood are biohazardous waste*. Do not throw any such items into the normal trash. Housekeeping and Security have special biohazardous waste bags available for such waste. A bandage for a small cut that does not have blood dripping from it, and menstrual items can be put in regular waste receptacles.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY



ATP SHIRTS FOR SALE!

The Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity is accepting orders for shirts sporting the ATP logo. The logo, which was inspired by a photograph taken by Alfonso Silva (Participant during Autumn 1994), is a bee hummingbird hovering at a plant. The bee hummingbird is endemic to Cuba, and is the world's smallest bird. The design is displayed on the door of the ATP office by the third-floor photocopy machine, and the original photograph is hanging in the office for those who would like to see it. Two types of shirts are available: 1) short-sleeve, 100% cotton T-shirts for \$10.00, available in natural, gold, clay (=soft red) or kelly green, or 2) long-sleeve, 50/50 sweatshirts for \$20.00, available in natural, bronze (=deep gold), raspberry or jade. Shirts are available in adult sizes S, M, L and XL. If you would like to purchase a shirt, please bring your order and money to **Wendy Jackson**, Coordinator of ATP, (x432) by July 31.

BIODIVERSITY EXPLORERS JOIN THE FIELD

In mid-June the Center for Evolutionary and Environmental Biology launched Biodiversity Explorers, a new internship program in environmental biology for Chicago-area high school students. Through this new program, funded by the Bannerman Foundation, five high school juniors are working at the Museum for eight weeks in a summer program of field and laboratory work, lectures and tours. The program is designed to introduce exceptional high school students to the biological sciences as a career choice. This summer the interns will work closely with the Museum's fungal survey program, collecting macrofungi (mushrooms and their allies) on field trips to the Indiana Dunes and the Cook County Forest Preserves. Their program will dovetail with the Field Museum's local survey programs and the Chicago Wilderness initiative, which seeks to document and conserve the extraordinarily rich biodiversity of the Chicago region.

The Biodiversity Explorers, **Alexander Janus**, **Irene Lee**, **Ismial Morrar**, **Elizabeth Salgado**, and **Monique Tran** have joined Post Doctoral Fellow **Jack Murphy** (Botany) and have been busy collecting and identifying mushrooms throughout northern Illinois and Indiana. They are also joined by **Anthony Amend** (entering freshmen at Cornell University), **John-Paul Schmit** (graduate student at the University of Chicago) and **Gina Wesley** (graduate of Northwestern University). Despite drought and a record-breaking heat wave, the Biodiversity Explorer group has gone on seven field trips to five locations in less than a month, made nearly 200 collections, and identified 65 species of fungi. One exciting collection is the first known Illinois record of the fungi *Laetiporus persicina*, which has previously been recorded only in Louisiana, North Carolina and Virginia. Despite the less than favorable collecting conditions, enthusiasm is high among the Biodiversity Explorers. They ask any friends of the Museum who have clout with the weather gods to ask for rain and a bountiful crop of mushrooms!

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ALL TAXA SURVEY IN COSTA RICA MOVE FORWARD

Preparations for the proposed All Taxa Biotic Inventory (ATBI) of the Guanacaste Conservation Area in northwestern Costa Rica are in full swing. The goal of the ATBI is to catalog "all" of the species occurring in this 120,000 ha area; from viruses to mammals. The Guanacaste Conservation Area (GCA) encompasses approximately thirty-six different habitats distributed in three major ecological zones ranging from sea level to 3,000 meters altitude. The GCA is estimated to house 60% of Costa Rica's biodiversity, i.e., about 220,000 species. Dan Janzen, the 1994 Founders Council Award of Merit recipient, is the driving force behind the project.

An important part of these preparations has been the meeting of international panels to outline protocols and determine resources, including human resources, necessary to carry out the goals of the ATBI. These panels, called Taxonomic Working Groups (TWIGS), meet at the GCA for 10 days to work out details for their specific taxonomic group. The following TWIGS are part of this stage of planning: vertebrates, hymenoptera (large group of insects including wasps and ants), coleoptera (beetles), nematodes, and fungi. **Greg Mueller** (Botany) recently returned from Costa Rica where he was part of the Fungus TWIG which was made up of 22 people from 10 countries. The report from the Fungus TWIG will be used, along with the reports from the other TWIGs, as part of the project proposal being prepared for submission to the World Bank, the European Community, and various international foundations. The desired start date for the full ATBI is 1997. Anyone interested in learning more about the ATBI, its goals or current progress, can talk with Greg.

Following the TWIG meeting, Greg was joined by **John-Paul Schmit** (Graduate Student, University of Chicago) for field work. They concentrated on sampling Greg's permanent plots in the central part of the country.

MUELLER VISITS ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Greg Mueller (Botany) was invited to the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign to participate in a session on a new educational initiative to involve high school classes in characterizing and monitoring natural areas.

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Levertia Short-Harris**, whose sister, Willie B. Champs, passed away on Sunday, July 16, 1995, at the University of Chicago. Funeral services will be in Mississippi.

The brother of Jesse J. Lear, Jr., **Robert L. Harris**, would like to thank each and every one for the many acts of thoughtfulness.

REMINDER: The deadline for the *Natural News* is Tuesday at noon. Material received after that time will be held for publication the following week. Please submit material to **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office.